

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Examiner's Office Action dated June 23, 2005, in which the Examiner rejected claims 3-6 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 3-6 have been amended to overcome the Examiner's rejections under 35 USC 112. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 3-6 under 35 USC 112 should be withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guggenbichler (US 2003/0049295) taken together with Gurin (US 2003/0151030) is respectfully traversed.

The present invention as defined in claim 1 is directed to a method for producing an injection-molded material having an antibacterial function. The antibacterial function results from a coating composition of nanosilver particles. Guggenbichler fails to disclose a coating of nanosilver particles. In addition, the injection-molded material formed in accordance with the method of the present invention is capable of preventing discoloration of the injection-molded material and prevents a decrease in strength. Discoloration and a decrease in strength conventionally occurs when forming an injection-molded material as a result of heating of the material several times over. This does not occur using the molding

method of the present invention. Guggenbichler fails to disclose the prevention of discoloration and/or decrease in strength.

In the method according to the present invention, the step of coating nanosilver particles onto surfaces of plastic raw materials to make pellets of the mixture requires only one heating operation to form an injection-molded material.

Moreover, the Guggenbichler method requires a preliminary step of molding a precursor with a metal colloid prior to the step of molding the precursor. The method of the present invention does not employ or require a preliminary molding step much less with a metal colloid. Accordingly, the method of Guggenbichler is not relevant to the method of the subject invention.

The nano-composite disclosed in the cited Gurin reference is alleged to be a stable chemical composition which possesses enhanced heat transfer capacity, electrical and thermal conductivity and to exhibit faster heat transfer rates and dispersion maintenance. However, such properties are known to be beneficial to most thermal or electrical transfer systems and the functions of the nanocomposite taught in Gurin are only an enhancement of its electrical property. More importantly, the nanocomposite in Gurin is unrelated to the existence of an antibacterial function and Gurin does not suggest an antibacterial function.

In addition, neither Guggenbichler nor Gurin disclose nanosilver particles to form the coating material. It is the nanosilver particle coating in the

present invention which provides an antibacterial function. This is essential to the method as claimed. Accordingly, neither Guggenbichler nor Gurin taken individually or in combination teach or suggest the method of the present invention.

Consequently, the rejection of claims 3-6 under 35 USC 103(a) is unsustainable and should be withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 2-6 should be withdrawn for the same reasons indicated with respect to the amended claim 1 and further because of the additional features recited therein which, when taken alone and/or in combination with the features recited in the amended claim 1, are clearly patentable over the cited references taken individually or in combination.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that this is a full and complete response to the Office Action. For the reasons discussed above, applicant now respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in complete condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner's rejections be withdrawn; and that the claims 1-6 be allowed in their present form. If the Examiner feels that any issues that remain require discussions, he is kindly invited to contact applicant's undersigned attorney to resolve the issues.

Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this Amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service via First Class Mail addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on September 23, 2005.

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